

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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1. African Afro Beats Leads New Music Wave to Europe

A surge in interest in African music in Britain is creating new economic opportunities for the continent's musicians. The new sound heating up the U.K. music scene is "Afro Beats" - a high energy hybrid that mixes Western rap influences with Ghanaian and Nigerian popular music.

Afro Beats draws its inspiration from the "Afrobeat" sound popularized in the 1970s (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrobeat>). Afrobeat recordings from that time are still making money as long-forgotten tunes are re-packaged by so-called 'crate divers' - enterprising people who rummage through old vinyl record collections and re-brand scenes and sounds.

This is part of the global creative economy, which is thriving despite the recent years of economic turmoil. Musicians offer many lessons for businesses in the South, both in their adaptability to new conditions and their resourcefulness in experimenting with new business models to earn an income.

Afrobeat stars and pioneers like Nigeria's Fela Kuti (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fela_Kuti) have been popular outside Africa for many decades. But Afro Beats - a new name with the addition of the crucial letter "s" - is being declared as the beginning of a new phase in taking African music global.

As the digital music revolution has rocked the global music business, artists have had to adapt and change their business models. For all but a very few "big names," it is no longer possible to build a career on royalties from recordings and hits. Stars and novices alike must battle with music pirates, who sell CDs and downloads of other people's tunes and keep the money for themselves. Legitimate income often comes in micropayments from large music platforms like iTunes as people pay to download an individual song or mix and match tunes they like from an artist's catalogue, rather than buying a whole album as they would in the past.

Clever musicians have turned to building their brand, using live performances and the ability to sell other services and merchandise to make a living. They create their own web platforms, or mobile phone apps (applications), and do the marketing and distribution on their own to build a loyal fan base. Others are creating their own mobile radio stations by distributing CDs to the ubiquitous taxi mini buses that are the main means of transport in most African cities.

But some things remain the same as in the past, such as the importance of having a champion, such as a radio DJ (disc jockey), who acts as a "taste maker," discovering new acts and telling their audience about them.

The DJ most associated with pushing the Afro Beats sound and scene is London-based DJ Abrantee (<http://www.facebook.com/djabrantee>).

"I've been playing this music to three or four thousand people at African events in the U.K. for years," DJ Abrantee told The Guardian. "For years we've had amazing hiplife, highlife, Nigerbeats, juju music, and I thought: you know what, let's put it all back together as one thing again, and call it Afro Beats, as an umbrella term. Afrobeat, the 60s music, was more instrumental - this Afro Beats sound is different, it's inter-twined with things like hip-hop and funky house, and there's more of a young feel to it."

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Abrantee (abranatee.com) promotes Afro Beats in the United Kingdom in myriad ways: he broadcasts six days a week on a radio station, including an Afro Beats-themed show on Saturdays. He travels around to DJ and takes Ghanaian and Nigerian tunes with him. He says Africa is so musically vibrant, he can't keep up with it all.

"This is specifically the western African sound: there are a lot of shared ideas between these two neighbouring countries," he explained to The Guardian. "I see Afro Beats as music which makes the heart beat. And it's funky, and hyped, and energetic and young."

Afro Beats has also been able to reach a young audience. "It's striking how young they are - when I do these Afro Beats events there's thousands of people, and they're all youngsters, really."

One of the Afro Beats stars is D'Banj (mohitsrecords.com/d-banj) - a Nigerian rap star - who has been receiving attention for his song Oliver Twist.

The Afro Beats sound is also provoking a new interest in all things African amongst youth with African parents. This is a big change from when American "cool" set the trends. As DJ Abrantee notes, "the parents are really pleased, and proud, that their kids are all of a sudden embracing their culture. It didn't used to be cool, but now they're going through their parents' record collections going, 'Have you got this old song by Daddy Lumba?'"

Some of the Afro Beats leaders include Sarkodie's 'U Go Kill Me', Ice Prince's 'Oleku', Atumpan's 'The Thing', Castro ft Asamoah Gyan's 'African Girls'.

Afro Beat's popularity in Britain has led to African artists collaborating with musicians in the UK. Afro Beats musician Sarkodie has collaborated with London-based artists Donaeo and Sway.

DJ Abrantee sees this trend continuing and expanding.

"You're going to see more U.K. artists doing Afro Beats collaborations now," he said.

Other Nigerian artists who have benefited from the increasing awareness are Wiz Kid, 2Face Idibia and P-Square (mysquare.com).

Abrantee believes Ghana and Nigeria are having a big impact on the global music scene.

"The floodgates have opened. Music is always evolving, and everyone's always looking for the next drug. Funky house has died out, grime is still there but it's gone back underground, electro-pop's got U.K. urban music in the charts, but that'll die out, it's got a short shelf-life. ... and people are finally noticing I'm getting 3,000 people coming out to dance to Afro Beats."

British-Ghanaian hip-hop performer Sway sees connections between Afrobeat and Afro Beats.

"Fela Kuti is obviously a massive legend in the game, and what he was doing is not too different to what D'Banj is doing now - taking western influences and adding them to African culture, and coming up with something new, that appeals to everyone," he said.

And technology is seen as the binding element that is connecting African music and musicians to other scenes.

"African music in Africa is evolving in relation to what's going on abroad too," said Sway. "Via the Internet they're picking up certain trends much quicker: so for example you have Auto-Tune and western styles of singing cropping up on all these Afro Beats tracks."

And Sway believes the quality of production of African music has improved: "There's been a serious change in the music coming out of Africa lately.

"The sound is heavier and clearer, the videos are better, there's been a positive growth in the African music scene. It was just a matter of time before people paid attention.

"When you've got African swag and African traditions combined with up-to-date western styles, and singing in English, well - you've got a winning formula on your hands."

LINKS:

1) Mongolian Rock Pop book: In the Mongolian language, this UNDP book details how pop musicians led on business innovation during the turbulent transition years of the 1990s.

Website: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/23917535/Mongolian-Rock-and-Pop-Book>

2) Afrobeat: An interactive exploration of Afrobeat and its participants from National Geographic.

Website: http://worldmusic.nationalgeographic.com/view/page.basic/genre/content.genre/afrobeat_686/en_US

3) DJ Abrantee: More from the champion of the Afro Beats scene.

Website: www.abranatee.com

2. Venture Capital Surge in Africa to Help Businesses

Africa's potential economic powerhouse lies in its small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Africa ebbs and flows based on the state of the global economy - and most of it is directed towards large enterprises and multinational companies.

Finding ways to support grassroots SMEs has the potential to truly build in sustainable prosperity for the continent and construct stable middle class jobs.

But building a continent-wide network of investors, and directing that investment at the grassroots business entrepreneurs who employ the majority of Africans, is not easy.

Foreign direct investment to Africa rose fivefold from 2000, peaking at US \$72 billion in 2008 (African Economic Outlook). A surge in raw material prices fed this boom. FDI is, however, unevenly distributed and much of it goes to extractive industries like mining and oil and gas in a handful of countries. When the global economic crisis hit, FDI inflows to African countries fell by 20 per cent, to US \$59 billion in 2009.

Venture Capital for Africa: Connecting Entrepreneurs and Investors (<http://vc4africa.biz>), is a free service trying to nurture the SME sector and help entrepreneurs overcome the challenges of funding start-ups in Africa. Members are expected to contribute, collaborate and show their seriousness, bringing resources or their ideas and enthusiasm. It has a detailed website with a mix of resources available. People can register and connect with others, check out venture ideas and the most popular ones in the past day to month, read about featured entrepreneurs, register as an investor looking for investees, and meet-up with others in their city. This includes expatriate communities in places like Oslo, Norway.

VC4Africa believes its mission is to champion entrepreneurship, and particularly SMEs, as the main driver of Africa's economic growth. These businesses provide the majority of the continent's employment and income. And as it says on its website, they offer "hope for a better future." It is estimated SMEs contribute two thirds of national income for many African countries and are a major source of middle class jobs.

VC4Africa believes "that the most meaningful impact will still come from grass roots level i.e. entrepreneurs bold enough to start potentially great companies. It aims to connect these individuals with the additional network, knowledge and capital they need to realize their potential."

VC4Africa started from a group on the social media and connecting platform LinkedIn in 2008. It claims to be the largest online community "dedicated to entrepreneurs and investors building companies on the continent." It is a free service and was founded by "serial entrepreneurs" Bill Zimmerman, formerly of Microsoft in the USA, and Ben White, founding member of AfriLabs (afrilabs.com), a network of technology incubators. Both have extensive experience founding and investing in technology initiatives in Africa.

VC4Africa is sponsored by a long list of well-known names in supporting African entrepreneurs: Acumen Fund (acumenfund.org), Afribiz (afribiz.info), AfricaNews.com, How We Made It In Africa.com, iHub Nairobi (ihub.co.ke), and others.

Consulting firm McKinsey (mckinsey.com) believes Africa's more than 1 billion citizens should be seen as consumers and says the continent's growing number of middle-income consumers now outstrips India's. It boldly claims consumer spending will reach US \$1.4 trillion in Africa by 2020, up from US \$860 billion in 2008. Ventures that target these consumers could do very well indeed.

The future is looking good for the venture capital model if VC4Africa continues with its successes. Two of VC4Africa's ventures - BongoLive and Njorku - were hailed by Forbes Africa magazine in February 2012 as top start-ups in Africa.

Founded in 2010, BongoLive is a mobile and SMS services company in Tanzania. Njorku, founded in 2011, is a Cameroonian career and recruitment services platform focused on Africa.

A long and impressive list of African ventures is being supported by the VC4Africa network. Not all will succeed, and they are in very different stages of development, from embryonic to established. The failure rate for start-ups anywhere is always high. But this doesn't have to be a bad thing. What tends to happen from experience in other countries is this: a buzz is generated as like-minded people gather around a tech scene. They feed off each others' ideas and when one idea dies, it is often feasted on - like a lion on a wildebeest - and becomes the meal for another start-up. Or, the idea is taken on board by a more established outfit.

The dynamic around tech start-ups can seem strange to more traditional business cultures. Tech start-ups tend to be more forgiving of failure and more willing to see all their labour as part of a bigger thing. It is accepted that some ideas will fly, and others will die. It is not a culture heavily laden with the shame that can be associated with more traditional business failures.

Some of the ventures supported by VC4Africa include:

MXit - Founded in 2003, MXit was one of the first Mobile Instant messaging services in the world and in Africa, and has a user base of about 45 million. (South Africa)

Dropifi - Founded in 2011, Dropifi helps businesses better respond to incoming messages via their websites, and also includes analytics for website owners. (Ghana)

FloCash - Founded in 2010, FloCash allows anyone with an email address and mobile number to send and receive

money across Africa simply and easily. (UK)

Bandeka - Founded in 2011, Bandeka is an exclusive social network for building relationships/dating. (Ghana and Nigeria)

Motribe - Founded in 2011, Motribe is a mobile platform enabling users, brands, agencies and publishers across the world to build and manage their own mobile social communities. (South Africa)

Hummba - Founded in 2011, Hummba is a social and travel networking website that lets users download free audio travel guides and share travel experiences directly from mobile phones.

10Layer - Founded in 2011, 10Layer is a CMS (content management) system targeted specifically at newsrooms. (South Africa)

LINKS:

1) African Venture Capital Association is a not-for-profit entity founded to promote, develop and stimulate private equity and venture capital in Africa. AVCA is committed to promoting high ethical standards of business conduct and professional competence in the private equity and venture capital industries.

Website: avcanet.com

2) Venture Capital Investment for SMEs: Africa Report explores what venture capitalists look for in African businesses.

Website: <http://www.africareport.com/latest-business-news/2010/10/22/venture-capital-investment-for-smes>

3) New book: Africa's Future: Darkness to Destiny: How the past is shaping Africa's economic evolution by Duncan Clarke.

Website: <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Africas-Future-Darkness-economic-evolution/dp/1846685699>

4) The Co-Creation Hub Nigeria, a technology innovations center in Lagos, is working to start 30 profitable social tech ventures in the next two years. "The thinking behind CcHub is that the techies should not believe that they can just stay in a corner and create solutions for the market", says Bosun Tijani, CEO of CcHub Nigeria. "You need to engage the market in the creation process and that is where co-creation comes into play."

Website: cchubnigeria.com

3. Business Leads on Tackling Violence in Mexican City

The damaging affects of crime and violence can ruin a city. They act as a drag on efforts to increase wealth and improve living conditions, and a city that gets a bad reputation, especially in the age of the Internet, will lose investment opportunities.

The North American nation of Mexico has been struggling against drug and gang-related violence that has left an estimated 47,000 people dead over the past five years. It is a casualty rate worthy of a war.

In Monterrey, the capital of Nuevo Leon state (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuevo_Le%C3%B3n), an innovative initiative has brought together local businesses to tackle the root causes of violence and crime. The initiative - called Red SumaRSE, which means 'joining a network' - was born from anger and disgust at the situation in the city. And it was ignited by a prominent member of the business community expressing this frustration on the social media outlet Twitter (twitter.com).

The chief executive of the Cemex cement company had had enough one day. Lorenzo Zambrano tweeted a blunt message to other companies in the city: "He who leaves Monterrey is a coward." It was to be a rallying cry for the campaign to take back the city from the violent gangs.

Monterrey is embroiled in violent drug-related gang crime. Just one incident shows how bad the situation had become. In August 2011 members of the Zetas drug gang torched a casino over a dispute over non-payment of extortion money, killing 52 people.

Law enforcement measures can often only go so far to curb violence in a community. Little impact can be made without addressing the underlying economic causes of much of the violence - poor employment opportunities, drug turf wars between rival gangs, economic instability and more.

"Violence is an expression of social inequality," Zambrano told The New York Times.

Tragedies like the casino fire provoked the city's business community to take action. Private companies in the city have stepped up to design and fund a recruitment campaign for the police force and are paying part of the cost for government-backed community redevelopment plans.

Corporate philanthropy in Mexico has a history of being very limited. Apart from distribution of gifts at holiday time, there was little else. But this is changing, with Red SumaRSE showing the way.

"In the last five or 10 years there has been progress both in terms of the quantity of the money and the quality," Michael Layton, director of the Philanthropy and Civil Society Project at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, told The New York Times. "But I don't think Mexico has caught up to Brazil and other countries where the

business sector has taken corporate philanthropy to heart.”

The Red SumaRSE alliance of Monterrey’s companies is directing support to non-governmental organizations working on community development. Examples include telephone company Axtel and the tortilla maker Gruma (gruma.com/vEsp) taking charge of 20 other companies to invest in schools, building up infrastructure and reversing drop-out rates.

The Oxxo company (oxxo.com/index.php), Mexico and Latin America’s largest chain store, has started to work at improving conditions in the neighbourhood immediately behind its headquarters. The company is working on building parks, increasing job opportunities and finding ways to prevent teenagers from joining gangs in the first place.

Cemex has also opened a new community centre in a violent neighbourhood where shootings were a regular occurrence. It was based on some Latin American knowledge sharing: inspired by the case of the Colombian city of Medellin, where libraries were strategically located in violent slum areas.

And there is more good work in the pipeline. The business community has drawn up a list of 70 neighbourhoods in the city needing re-development.

Red SumaRSE has not been without its critics. They have attacked the focus on security, education and victims while ignoring corruption, which many believe is the source of many of the city’s problems.

LINKS:

1) Medellin: Walking between slums and dreamworlds of neoliberalism: More on the complexities of the situation in this Colombian city.

Website: <http://www.a0n.com/medellin/dreamworlds.htm>

4. Africa’s Tourism Sector Can Learn from Asian Experience

Africa continues to be seen as new territory for global tourism, yet it still is not even close to meeting its potential, according to a report by a South African think tank. In fact, many resorts and tourist areas are failing to fill up with visitors. This contrasts with the booming world tourism industry, which broke records in arrivals in 2011 (UNWTO).

Apart from South Africa, much of sub-Saharan Africa is the worst performing region for tourism in the world. Africa received 5.2 per cent of the world’s tourism - 40 million visitors - in 2010. Yet the continent as a whole has 15 per cent of the world’s population: a hint at the potential being missed.

Okavango Delta in Botswana (botswana-places.co.za/okavango.html), reports Canada’s Globe and Mail newspaper, has nearly empty luxury lodges and resorts and is offering heavy discounts to lure tourists in.

But the report believes there are two countries African nations can look to for lessons on how to tighten up their tourism offerings: Vietnam and Cambodia. It points out both these countries share similar challenges, including colonial legacies, war and conflict, poor quality skills and weak infrastructure. Both countries dramatically reversed their failures in a decade and now have booming tourism sectors creating jobs and bringing in wealth.

Africa suffers from negative publicity generated by media reporting about terrorist attacks on tourists across the continent and kidnappings by criminal gangs and pirates in East Africa. The so-called ‘Arab Spring’ upheavals in North Africa are also having an impact. The continent’s many infrastructure problems also limit its potential. These include unreliable power supplies, out-of-date airports, inadequate involvement of local populations in the benefits of tourism and the tourist economy, and poor awareness of attractions apart from the clichéd African “safari”.

The report is urging a re-think by all of Africa’s nations of their tourism strategies and the structure of their tourism sectors. In order for the tourism industry to grow and to thrive, greater focus is required and greater investment needed to ensure the facilities, attractions and experience matches what tourists would expect. And the report believes this matters a great deal because in tourism lies the solution to many of the continent’s high unemployment problems.

Tourism is one of the world’s largest industries and a great generator of wealth and jobs. But while it provides 5 per cent of the world’s gross domestic produce (GDP), it only provides 2 per cent of Africa’s GDP.

Tourism in Africa is also heavily skewed to just a handful of countries. The bulk of tourists visit just four countries: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and South Africa.

“This desultory record belies the natural advantages Africa has over other regions that have performed much better, in particular the continent’s extraordinary diversity - of wildlife, environment and people,” according to the report produced by the Brenthurst Foundation (thebrenthurstfoundation.org), a think-tank in Johannesburg.

The paper is called ‘Unlocking Africa’s Tourism Potential: Lessons from Vietnam and Cambodia’ (http://www.thebrenthurstfoundation.org/a_sndmsg/news_view.asp?l=121182&PG=288)

The Brenthurst Foundation researches new ideas and “innovative actions for strengthening Africa’s economic performance”.

Cambodia’s tourism industry grew by 17 per cent in 2010 and became the country’s second largest earner of foreign

income. In Vietnam, tourism has grown by 11 per cent every year since 1995 and makes up 12 per cent of the country's GDP.

The report isolated four key lessons that African tourism authorities should follow:

- 1) Help the private sector to expand what it offers to tourists, and make it more sophisticated, including eco-tourism and maritime tourism.
- 2) Undertake aggressive international marketing campaigns (South Africa is a good example) and push hard their well-known tourism offerings, making them global icons. Also develop tourism hubs.
- 3) The tourism sector needs to professionalize by investing in skills training in tourism and hospitality.
- 4) Identify potential tourist markets and smooth the journey for them by streamlining obstacles like visas. They should also make a list of health and safety concerns tourists will have and address them.

The report believes this strategy would go a long way to tackle the continent's high unemployment levels.

"No continent stands to benefit more from the 21st century tourism boom than Africa," the report claims.

LINKS:

- 1) World Tourism Organization: UNWTO is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

Website: <http://unwto.org>

- 2) Vietnam Tourism: The national tourism administration of Vietnam.

Website: <http://www.vietnamtourism.com>

- 3) Tourism Cambodia: The official website for the tourism authority of Cambodia.

Website: <http://www.tourismcambodia.com>

- 4) Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan.

Website: www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073

5. Designed in China to Rival 'Made in China'

Harnessing the power of design to improve products and the way they are manufactured is a critical component of successful economic development. And the high export value of designing and making "computer equipment, office equipment, telecommunication equipment, electric circuit equipment, and valves and transistors" was flagged up as a priority for developing nations back in 2005 at a meeting looking for "New and Dynamic Sectors of World Trade" (UNCTAD).

One country taking up this challenge is China. It now boasts twice as many Internet users as the United States, and is the main global maker of computers and consumer electronics, from toys to games consoles to digital everything. China is also on course to become the world's largest market for Internet commerce and computing.

The centre of gravity is very much moving China's way: One study of 769 firms investing in 2,203 Chinese companies by Stanford University in California, found "the same firms that were successful in Silicon Valley ... have transplanted their expertise to China," according to Marguerite Gong Hancock in The New York Times.

But the country wants to move from 'Made in China' to 'Designed in China'. This is critical because the majority of the profits to be made are actually in the designing, patenting and marketing of products. Manufacturing, as has been shown in the recent media controversy over the products made by Apple (apple.com), is not the main profit centre. Apple employs 43,000 people in the United States and 20,000 overseas. But through its network of sub-contractors, the number employed overseas in Asia, Europe and elsewhere is around 700,000 (The New York Times). This includes around 200,000 assembly jobs in China. These workers can make US \$17 a day or less.

Apple makes hundreds of dollars in profit for each of its iPhones. Apple can do this because it is the designer of the phones and holds the copyright, and it is the branded company that has built up its reputation and developed a highly sophisticated marketing and distribution network around the world. Through clever use of design, Apple created products that look distinctive in the marketplace. And those are the factors that determine the ability to make this profit. As has been noted, it isn't just cheap wages that keep Apple's profits high.

Getting consumers to desire and buy your products is a challenge for any company. Design plays a major part in understanding the unique demands of countries and markets, and what people find appealing or repellent.

A product that has both a successful design and is produced efficiently will generate a good profit.

The classic example from the past is Japan. Devastated during World War II, Japan set about re-building its manufacturing prowess from scratch. It brought in American innovators to introduce new concepts in manufacturing. Japan's openness to the new ways enabled it to re-fashion its manufacturing industries to exporting to the developed Western nations, in particular the United States. At first, quality control was an issue and Japan was mocked for making cheap quality trinkets, toys, automobiles and motorcycles. But it quickly changed from this to a reputation

for making quality, affordable products and moving quickly into the burgeoning micro-electronics and consumer products markets. It also was a pioneer in computer gaming and entertainment.

The recent achievements in supercomputing in China are pointing to where things can go. China has developed the Sunway Bluelight MPP supercomputer (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ShenWei>). It is able to do a quadrillion calculations per second: making the Sunway Bluelight one of the 20 fastest supercomputers in the world. It was built with a Chinese-made microprocessor, and importantly, uses lower amounts of power than other supercomputers. The clever bit is the ratio of computing power to wattage used. Energy-efficient computing is critical if computers are to make the jump to the next level in processing power.

All these trends coming together hint at big changes in the coming years.

In the past two decades, the electronics sector has enabled a number of developing countries to improve trade performance, in particular East and Southeast Asian nations.

Improving education is critical to the growth strategy. Improving education, like encouraging the pursuit of engineering as a profession, as China has done – it now has more than half a million estimated graduates, the most in the world – means new skills and ideas are coming to the industry (engineeringinchina.net).

But this is not enough. New ideas are essentially a creative process and this needs connections to business and the ability to experiment and play with ideas. Start-up incubators have proven a successful way to do this.

Thailand is a good example: Around US \$4.5 billion was invested in the country's electronics industry between 1986 and 2001. This created 300,000 jobs. The sector became so important it made up a third of the country's exports. Realizing that much of the work was assembly manufacturing, the government set up the Thailand IC Design Incubator (<http://www.nectec.or.th/rd/electronics/be204-45/be204-45.php>) to work on hard disk drive development and move up the value chain.

"In 1978, I saw workers stringing together computer memories with sewing needles," Patrick J. McGovern explained to The New York Times. McGovern is the founder of the International Data Group, which invests in Chinese enterprises. "Now innovation is accelerating, and in the future, patents on smartphones and tablets will be originated by the Chinese people."

In the past, China was not able to make significant progress on this development for two main reasons. The first is copyright piracy and theft of intellectual property rights. During China's economic rise, this theft was rampant and the country developed a reputation for being home to a vast marketplace of knock-offs of major Western brands. And the second reason was the heavy hand of the government, which scared off many entrepreneurs.

But China is re-structuring its industries to focus on innovation. In 2011, China surpassed South Korea and Europe in total patents and was in a neck and neck race with Japan and the United States. As fuel for the innovation rocket, venture capital is critical. And China is now the world's second largest venture capital market, with the total jumping from US \$2.2 billion in 2005 to US \$7.6 billion in 2011.

It is this journey up the manufacturing 'value chain' that many countries look to with admiration and jealousy. And the secret to being able to move up this value chain is design – savvy product design combined with savvy design of manufacturing methods to continually drive down costs and drive up quality. How long until China has its own Apple and not just an Apple knock-off (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-14503724>)?

LINKS:

1) Red Dot: The red dot logo stands for belonging to the best in design and business. The red dot is an internationally recognised quality label for excellent design that is aimed at all those who would like to improve their business activities with the help of design.

Website: <http://www.red-dot.de>

2) Dutch Design in Development: DDiD is the agency for eco design, sustainable production and fair trade. They work with Dutch importers and designers and connect them to local producers in developing countries and emerging markets. Together products are made that are both profitable and socially and environmentally sustainable.

Website: <http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html>

3) C3: C3 offers product design and product engineering services in Shanghai, China. Their strong point is managing innovative design processes from scratch (market research) until production: a one shop service:

Website: chinacreativecompany.com

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: www.southerninnovator.org



Our new magazine, Southern Innovator, has launched: the first issue's theme is mobile phones and information technology. Please contact the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of the new magazine. E-mail: ssc.info@undp.org

Called "...a terrific *tour de force* of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space..." and "Graphically beautiful and informative."



The second issue's theme is youth and entrepreneurship and will soon be launched. The third issue is in production and is on the theme of agriculture and food security. Contact us about opportunities to sponsor these issues.

Follow us on Twitter [@SouthSouth1](https://twitter.com/SouthSouth1)

Also check out our SouthSouth Expo: 2011's Expo was in Rome, Italy.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West by Tonio Andrade,

Publisher: Princeton University Press. **Website:** www.press.princeton.edu

China's Regulatory State: A New Strategy for Globalization by Roselyn Hsueh,

Publisher: Cornell University Press. **Website:** www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

A Liberal World Order in Crisis: Choosing between Imposition and Restraint by Georg Sorensen,

Publisher: Cornell University Press. **Website:** www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic,

Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. Living in the Endless City depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures.

Website: <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair,

Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** www.amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa,

Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** www.amazon.com

How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly – And the Stark Choices Ahead by Dambisa Moyo,

Publisher: Allen Lane. The new book from challenging thinker Moyo, it argues the West needs to start following China's economic model or face economic ruin. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform by Justin Yifu Lin,

Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Africa in the Global Economy by Richard E. Mshomba,

Publisher: Lynne Rienner. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Recession Prevention Handbook: Eleven Case Studies, 1948-2007 by Norman Frumkin,

Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Roller Coaster Economy: Financial Crises, Great Recession and the Public Option by Howard J. Sherman,

Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally,

Publisher: PM Press. Global Slump analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, Global Slump challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation.

Website: https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Aftershock: Reshaping the World Economy After the Crisis by Philippe Legrain,

Publisher: Little, Brown. **Website:** www.philippelegrain.com/aftershock

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins,

Publisher: UQP. **Website:** www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm

The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards by Frank Biancheri,

Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php

The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society by Frans de Waal,

Publisher: Crown. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City by Doug Saunders,

Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis,

Publisher: Diaconia and the European Network on Debt and Development.

Website: www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira,

Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:** www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley,

Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development,

Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** www.youthenterpriseconference.org

Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development,

Publisher: UNHABITAT.

Website: www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development

Building Decent Societies: Rethinking the Role of Social Security in Development edited by Peter Townsend,

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

World of Work Report 2010: From One Crisis to the Next?

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

From the Great Recession to Labour Market Recovery: Issues, Evidence and Policy Options edited by Iyanatul Islam and Sher Verick,

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

PAPERS AND REPORTS

Illicit Financial Flows from the Least Developed Countries: 1990-2008 UNDP-Commissioned Report

Website: <http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2011/05/12/undp-commissioned-report-from-global-financial-integrity-%E2%80%99Cillicit-financial-flows-from-the-least-developed-countries-1990-2008%E2%80%9D-now-available>

Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation

Publisher: UNCTAD.

Website: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intlItemID=2068&lang=1>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life

Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010

Publisher: Commission for Africa. **Website:** www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery

Publisher: IMF. **Website:** www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm

Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development

Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intItemID=2068&lang=1

Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011

Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries

Publisher: OECD. **Website:** www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmp8lncrns-en (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050 by Manmohan Agarwal,

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:** www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada,

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business? Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park,

Publisher: LIT. **Website:** [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU-North%20Korea%20book.pdf)

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well

Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe.

Website: <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"

Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010.

Website: www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

Website: www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity

Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse?

Website: www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html

China's economic invasion of Africa

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/06/chinas-economic-invasion-of-africa

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history

ON THE WEB**BLOGS AND WEBSITES**

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich store of datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy Website Launches

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

Website: www.latameconomy.org/en

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

Website: www.networkideas.org

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery. **Website:** www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** www.globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28issue%29/56>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program

Website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** www.yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community. **Website:** www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent. **Website:** www.africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. **Website:** www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor

With "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities."

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com

Silicon Savanna: Mobile Phones Transform Africa

Website: www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2080702,00.html

INTERESTING BLOGGER

White African: About high-tech mobile and web technology change in Africa.

Website: <http://whiteafrican.com>

SOCIAL MEDIA**Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: 'Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity'.

Website: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

START-UP FUNDING**The SEED Initiative**

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

Website: <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors. **Website:** www.socialedge.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways. **Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'. **Website:** www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (www.aureos.com/) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent. Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

Website: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net

Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966

Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor.

Website: www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

VIDEO

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony.

Website: <http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?
Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

FEBRUARY

Global Forum on Competition

Paris, France (16-17 February 2012)

The 11th OECD Global Forum on Competition will focus on price volatility in commodities as well as on international co-operation in cartel investigations. Forum participation is by invitation only and restricted to government representatives or selected invitees.

Website: oecd.org/document/0/0,3746,en_40382599_40393118_48963648_1_1_1_1,00.html

16th Edition of the Addis Ababa International Trade Fair

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (23-29 February 2012)

Addis Chamber International Trade Fair offers a unique platform for the business houses by offering the best solutions that are sure to bring in a lot of success to the visitors coming from different sectors. The presentations and learning classes are aimed to give the attendees a brief idea of the displayed modernized products. The exhibitors also demonstrate some of the products to make the buyers have brief knowledge about the salient features that are added to the products.

Website: addischamber.com/news&articles/newsDe.php?nid=279&tname=

Morocco Investors' Summit 2012

Casablanca, Morocco (23-24 February 2012)

The ultimate gateway to doing business and investing in the Maghreb Countries.

Website: www.euroconvention.com

MARCH

World Water Forum

Marseilles, France (12-17 March 2012)

Every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum engages the imagination, innovation, skills and know-how to advance the cause of water.

Website: worldwaterforum6.org/en

Joint Africa-EU Strategy Meeting

Brussels, Belgium (14 March 2012)

Website: africa-eu-partnership.org

Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa

Accra, Ghana (19-21 March 2012)

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agrifood sector in Africa (as producers, entrepreneurs, employees, consumers and citizens); The dynamics of change in different components of the agrifood sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agrifood sector.

Website: nepad.org/conferences/young-people-farming-food-future-agrifood-sector-africa

China's Emergence as a Market Economy: Achievements and Challenges

Beijing, China (20-21 March 2012)

The forum focuses on China's urbanisation and its challenges.

Website: oecd.org/china

World Water Day

Geneva, Switzerland (22 March 2012)

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater.

Website: unwater.org/worldwaterday

8th South-East European Congress and Exhibition on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Sofia, Bulgaria (28 March 2012)

The event will be the most significant meeting point for business and knowledge exchange in the Region of South-East Europe. The participation is a great opportunity for establishment of new partnerships on a global scale.

Website: eeandres.viaexpo.com/en/exhibition

APRIL

World Economic Forum on Latin America 2012

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (16-18 April 2012)

Latin America is notable for its stability and innovative social, agriculture and renewable energy achievements. As such, the region is providing new models to address the future course of world affairs.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-2012

African Conference on Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies

Rabat, Morocco (19-21 April)

The African Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies is one of a series of regional conferences being conducted in preparation for the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policies, to be held in New Delhi in October 2012. The Conference is jointly organised by the OECD Development Centre and the Moroccan High Planning Commission (HCP) in collaboration with the OECD, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Website: www.oecd.org

Global Water Summit 2012

Rome, Italy (30 April to 1 May 2012)

From Wall Street to the streets of Athens, Cairo and Tripoli, the message is clear: this is not business as usual. World

events - financial, climatic, revolutionary - will have a lasting and unavoidable impact on the way the world of water works.

Website: www.watermeetsmoney.com

MAY

IWA World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy

Dublin, Ireland (13-18 May 2012)

A global network for water professionals: The International Water Association (IWA) is the global network of 10,000 water professionals spanning the continuum between research and practice and covering all facets of the water cycle. The Congress will explore the topics of resilient and sustainable cities with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation. **Website:** iwa-wcedublin.org

17th Session of the United Nations High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation

New York, USA (22-25 May 2012)

The primary global forum for monitoring and reporting on South-South cooperation efforts among developing countries and United Nations system members.

Website: http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/services/policy/governing_bodies/high_level_committee.html

JUNE

World Economic Forum on East Asia 2012

Bangkok, Thailand (20 May to 1 June 2012)

The 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) together form a region of strategic and economic importance with a combined population of over 600 million and a nominal GDP exceeding US\$ 1.8 trillion. With its ASEAN Economic Blueprint, the bloc has established concrete targets to form a single market and production base by 2015.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-east-asia-2012

World Economic Forum on Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia 2012

Istanbul, Turkey (4-6 June 2012)

The pace and complexity of global change in recent years have been unprecedented, with Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia emerging as a key mega-region of the future. The World Economic Forum on Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia will therefore convene over 1,000 leaders in Istanbul, Turkey, to catalyse new partnerships for growth and human development.

Website: weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-europe-middle-east-north-africa-and-central-asia-2012

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 Rio+20

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (20-22 June 2012)

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The Conference will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

Website: www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/about.html

JULY / AUGUST

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?

Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

SEPTEMBER

Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2012

Tianjin, People's Republic of China (11-13 September 2012)

The Annual Meeting of the New Champions is the foremost global business gathering in Asia. After five years, it is widely known as the Summer Davos – reflecting the “spirit of Davos” that for more than four decades has meant openness, collegiality and frank, yet friendly, exchange among leaders from business, government, academia, civil society and media.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/annual-meeting-new-champions-2012

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference: Registration is Open

Washington, DC, USA (11-13 September, 2012)

You are invited to attend Making Cents International's 6th annual Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference. The conference will take place at the Inter-American Development Bank's Conference Center (1330 New York Ave., NW) in Washington, DC September 11-13, 2012. In just five years, this participatory and demand-driven learning event has become the “go to” conference for practitioners, funders, educators, policymakers, members of the private sector, and other professionals who design, implement, monitor, evaluate, and fund programs and policies in this field. Previous conferences have convened on average 400 participants from more than 50 countries. The 2012 learning tracks are: youth enterprise development; youth-inclusive financial services and capabilities; workforce development; monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; and adolescent girls and young women.

To register, please visit: <http://www.youtheconomicopportunities.org/registration.asp>.

If you have any questions, please contact Whitney Harrelson, Conference Director, at whitney@makingcents.com; or +1 202-783-4090.

OCTOBER

4th OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policies” - Measuring Well-being and Fostering the Progress of Societies

New Delhi, India (16-19 October 2012)

The goal of the 4th OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policies” is to assess progress in implementing the Istanbul Declaration (2007), to share results and lessons learned from work undertaken by OECD and other organizations, and to give impetus to concrete measurement programmes based on existing national and regional statistical capacities, mechanisms and tools.

Website: www.oecd.org/document/47/0,3746,en_2649_33715_49312751_1_1_1_1,00.html

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?

Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

AWARDS AND FUNDING

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world.

The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges.

For the Request for Proposals:

Website: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will improve people’s health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India’s rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India’s health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer - winners announced!

UN-HABITAT, the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation are pleased to announce the winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award, a special joint initiative which seeks to recognise housing and urban development practices that have been successfully transferred to other countries in the global South. The winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award is **Un Techo Para mi País (A Roof for my Country)**, Chile, awarded for mobilising thousands of youth volunteers and transferring its innovative approach to 19 countries across Latin America.

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative.

The winning practice receives US\$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries. **Website:** www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Click here for more information

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

TRAINING

JOBS AND CAREERS

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market: **Website:** www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org

ExportHelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation

that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspovetry.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations. **Website:** www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and

collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists “to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent”. We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa’s development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [African Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Child Fund International](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [International Organization for Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UNOCHA\)](#)
- [UN Jobs.org](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UN Careers](#)
- [UNDP jobs](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [Third Sector](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to:
Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy,
Special Unit for South-South Cooperation